

# Peninsula wind farm: Syngas talks on biomass energy plant

ABIOMASS to power plant on the Yorke Peninsula is still well and truly on the agenda, following an announcement by Suzlon Energy Australia of its plans to invest \$1.3 billion to build one of the world's largest wind energy projects, which will include a biomass facility.

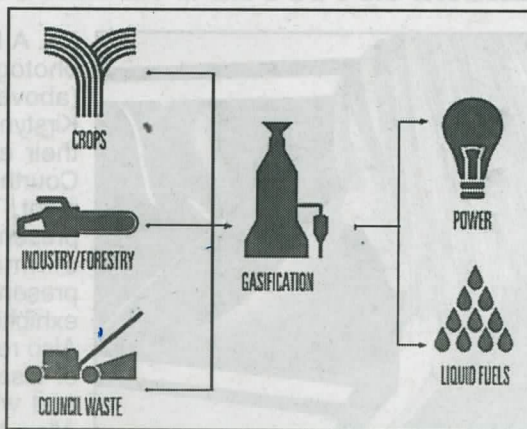
Energy firm Syngas has been conducting field trials of such a process on the peninsula over the past 12 months, utilising the chaff from harvesters to produce power.

However, last month the company revealed, due to high costs, the biomass project had taken a back seat to its coal mining activities, including a large deposit near Clinton.

Premier Mike Rann, said the Suzlon Group – which is the world's fifth largest wind turbine supplier with operations in 32 countries – proposed to erect up to 180 turbines, 20 kilometres south-west of Ardrossan in what the company has called the Ceres Project.

He said the proposed project would be able to generate up to 600 megawatts (MW) directly into the metropolitan Adelaide grid via a High Voltage Direct Current connection across Gulf St Vincent.

Syngas managing director, Merrill Gray, said the Suzlon announcement was not in opposition to



A simple explanation for biomass energy.

her company's venture.

"Indeed, we have had preliminary discussions with the Suzlon group regarding a biomass to power project," Ms Gray said. "I do not believe there is competition here.

"However, our discussions and plans are only in the preliminary stages.

"Suzlon, as I understand it, is seeking essentially expressions of interest from parties who might want to use the infrastructure they install for their Yorke Peninsula project, including the cable under Gulf St Vincent."

In the meantime, Syngas has recently submitted its draft final report to Renewables SA, covering the outcomes and findings of field trials on residual straw collection work undertaken with the Yorke Peninsula Alkaline Soils Group farmers.

"We await feedback

from Renewables SA and are looking to finalise this report so it can be presented to the Premier and our findings and plans can be released," Ms Gray said.

As for the wind power, the Suzlon Group's Ceres Project will generate enough electricity to power more than 200,000 homes every year.

"In terms of the benefit to the environment, this level of wind power generating capacity is estimated to reduce output of carbon dioxide by 2.5 million tonnes each year," Premier Rann said.

The project will provide a big economic boost for Yorke Peninsula with more than 500 direct jobs in construction and 50 ongoing jobs over 25 years.

Suzlon hopes to complete the project, if approved, by end of 2015 after environmental assessments and community engagement.